



Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP)

Each year the state, through the Office of Policy and Management, sets aside millions of dollars for the STEAP grants and urban projects. Towns that have populations less than 30,000 that are not designated as distressed municipalities or public investment communities, and are not shown as having an urban center by the State Plan of Conservation Development are eligible for up to \$500,000 per year, through STEAP. Larger municipalities such as Danbury are eligible for Urban Action funding.

Like Urban Action grants, STEAP grants can only be used for economic development projects. Projects include the construction or rehabilitation of commercial or industrial structures, road repair, recreation, social service related projects, housing projects, historical preservation and waste disposal projects.

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Serving the people of:

Bethel

Danbury

New Fairfield

Sherman





State Senator

David J. Cappiello

Dear Neighbor,

In recent years the General Assembly has developed programs designed to provide economic development resources to Connecticut's municipalities. The Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) and Urban Action grants have allocated millions of dollars for capital improvement projects for towns across the state.

These grants are another form of state aid to municipalities but are not categorized as such because the allocations, which must be approved by the State Bond Commission, are dedicated to specific projects rather than an on-going expenditure that would ordinarily come out of the General Fund.

Please take a moment to look at some of the funding that has been awarded to our local communities through the grant process.

If you have any questions regarding these projects or any issue that may be of concern to you, please feel free to contact me in Hartford at 1-800-842-1421, or by e-mail at David.Cappiello@cga.ct.gov.

Sincerely,

David

David Cappiello

Bethel

Since 2002 the State of Connecticut has awarded over \$1.2 million in small town assistance to the Town of Bethel. The most recent award came in June when the State Bond Commission allocated \$500,000 to the town for the replacement of a water line that leads to and within Clarke Industrial Park. The following is a list of other projects that the town has received funding for since the inception of the STEAP grant program:

- FY 02 \$250,000 for the repair and reconstruction of sidewalks around the town center
- FY 03 \$50,000 for improvements to the transfer station
- FY 03 \$175,000 for improvements to Meckauer Park
- FY 03 \$25,000 for Bennett Park improvements
- FY 05 \$250,000 for the town's sidewalk replacement project

Sherman

The Town of Sherman has also benefited from STEAP in recent years. In fact, over \$860,000 has been awarded to the town since 2003.

- FY 03 \$35,000 for the installation of restrooms at the town park
- FY 03 \$300,000 for two soccer and baseball fields at Town Meadows Park
- FY 03 \$16,000 for heating, cooling and roofing improvements to the Senior Center
- FY 03 \$12,000 for window replacement at the Sherman Playhouse
- FY 05 \$500,000 for historic preservation to the Town Hall and Senior Center



Danbury

Last December the City of Danbury received an Urban Action grant in the amount of \$500,000 for renovations to the Boughton Street YMCA. This facility is an important part of our community and through this grant much needed renovations to the roof, heating and air conditioning system, gymnasium, weight room, locker room and swimming pool could proceed.



New Fairfield

This year, the Town of New Fairfield received \$500,000 for two projects. Of that, \$448,000 has been allocated to assist the town with the costs of a new senior center. The grant covers nearly half the costs involved in acquiring, renovating and expanding the facility that will be the permanent home to the new center. This project in particular has been in the works for some time and through the efforts of local residents and officials, and with the assistance of the STEAP revenue, this project can move forward.

In addition, the Town of New Fairfield also received small town assistance funding in the amount of \$52,000 for renovations to the Hidden Valley Nature Center. Funding will be used for various improvements to the preserve, including bridge replacement, parking lot renovations and improvements to the observation platform and nature museum building.

- FY 03 \$500,000 for improvements to the fields at New Fairfield High School
- FY 05 \$350,000 for pedestrian walkways in the town's center